

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 IO-13 SSM-03 /115 W
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R 121120Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5570
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
FOSIF ROTA

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MPOL, LY
SUBJECT: QADHAFI SPEECH, AIR SHOW HIGHLIGHT JUNE 11 AMERICAN
EVACUATION FESTIVITIES

BEGIN SUMMARY: UNEXCEPTIONAL BUT SPIRITED AND SHORT QADHAFI
SPEECH AND AN AIR SHOW AT WHAT USED TO BE WHEELUS AIR BASE
HIGH POINTS OF EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF "AMERICAN EVACUATION" DAY.
TRIPOLI CELEBRATIONS FOLLOW BUSY SCHEDULE OF FESTIVITIES
WHICH INCLUDED OPENING OF WHAT WILL BE LIBYA'S THIRD MAJOR
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PORT AND NEW AIR BASE. ANTI-AMERICAN TONE OF EVENTS PRESENT
BUT MORE MUTED THAN IN PAST YEARS. END SUMMARY.

1. LIBYA'S MUAMAR AL-QADHAFI -- WEARING HIS MILITARY
UNIFORM AS SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES AND
CONTINUALLY RAPPING THE PODIUM WITH HIW SWAGGER STICK
TO CONTAIN INTERRUPTIONS -- DELIVERED A SPIRITED BUT

MERCIFULLY SHORT (20 MINUTES) SPEECH JUNE 11 AT UQBA BIN NAFI (FORMERLY WHEELUS) AIR BASE NEAR TRIPOLI CELEBRATING THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EVACUATION OF AMERICAN FORCES FROM LIBYA. MUCH OF QADHAFI'S EXTREMOPORANEous ADDRESS WAS COUCHED IN CHAUVINISTIC RHETORIC WHICH SHARPLY ATTACKED THE FORMER AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN LIBYA AND THE PRE-1969 ROYALIST REGIME FOR PERMITTING IT. HE RECALLED THAT MAJOR JALUD WHO NEGOTIATED THE EVACUATION HAD REGRETTED THE EASY DEPARTURE OF THE AMERICANS BECAUSE A BLOODY STRUGGLE WOULD HAVE MADE THE EVENT MORE MEMORABLE. QADHAFI NOTED THAT LIBYA WAS NOW A STATE WITHOUT SENATORS, DEPUTIES OR MINISTERS -- A STATE WHERE "PEOPLE'S AUTHORITY" RULED AND WHERE "PEOPLE'S POWER" WAS BEING EXTENDED IN ALL FIELDS. TURNING TO PALESTINIAN THEMES, HE SAID THAT LIBYA'S ARMED FORCES WERE AT THE SERVICE OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION. HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS NO SOLUTION FOR THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM EXCEPT THE SOLUTION OF REVOLUTION AND FORCE. HE CONDEMNED THE "POLICY OF SURRENDER" AND SAID THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION DEMONSTRATED THAT THIS POLICY WAS BLOCKED.

2. ALL OF THE OTHER FOUR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT (WHICH SUPPLANTED THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL IN 1977) SHARED THE REVIEWING STAND WITH QADHAFI. LIBYAN NUMBER TWO ABD AL-SALAM JALUD SURFACED FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIRST TIME SINCE JUNE 5 SEATED AT QADHAFI'S RIGHT SIDE. ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMANDER ABU BAKR YUNIS JABR AND POPULAR MILITIA HEAD MAJOR AL-KHUWALAYDI AL-HUMAYDI WERE ALSO PRESENT. FOREIGN VISITORS TO THE FESTIVITIES INCLUDED PALESTINIAN LEADERS YASIR ARAFAT, NAYIF HAWATMAH, AND PERHAPS ABU IYAD WHO WAS REPORTED TO BE IN TOWN. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND THE NASIRIST "MIRABATIN" WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE. RADIO TRIPOLI NOTED THAT MUHAMMAD AL-AMIN OF POLISARIO ALSO ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI JUNE 10 TO ATTEND THE FESTIVITIES, BUT HE WAS NOT SEEN ON THE REVIEWING STAND. BENIN'S MINISTER OF INTERIOR ENJOYED A PROMINENT SEAT BETWEEN AL-HUMAYDI AND ABU BAKR YUNIS.

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3. FOLLOWING QADHAFI'S SPEECH, THE ASSEMBLED AUDIENCE AND TELEVISION VIEWERS WITNESSED THE MOST IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF LIBYAN AIR POWER EVER PRESENTED. LARGE NUMBERS OF MIG 21S AND 23S, MIRAGE 5S, AND SEVERAL TU-22 MEDIUM BOMBERS AND SUKHOI-22 "SWING-WING" LIGHT BOMBERS PARTICIPATED. HIGH POINT OF THE AIR SHOW WAS THE DEBUT OF THREE OF THE RECENTLY-ARRIVED FRENCH F-1S. THE EXCITEMENT GENERATED BY THE APPEARANCE OF THESE AIR-CRAFT CAUSED THE COMMENTATOR TO STATE REPEATEDLY THAT THESE F-1S "HEREBY CHALLENGE THE REACTIONARIES F-15S."

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(ALTHOUGH THE AIR SHOW HAD LITTLE IN THE WAY OF AERIAL ACROBATICS, THERE WERE MARKED DIFFERENCES IN THE SKILL OF THE PILOTS WHICH RAISE SOME QUESTIONS AS TO THE NATIONALITY OF SOME OF THE CREWS.)

4. JUNE 11 IS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY IN LIBYA, AND ALL SHOPS, AND OFFICES AND MANY EMBASSIES WERE CLOSED. STREETS IN ALL CITIES AND TOWNS ARE FESTOONED WITH LIGHTS,

BANNERS, AND COLORFUL POSTERS ILLUSTRATING UNCLE SAM BEING
BOOTED OUT OF LIBYA. GENERAL ANTI-AMERICAN CONTENT
THIS YEAR IS RATHER LOW-KEYED, HOWEVER, AND THE BRITISH
HAVE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM FOR THEIR PAST
"SINS" AS WELL.

5. QADHAFI DECLINED TO SPEAK AT EITHER THE OPENING OF
THE NEW PORT AT MISRATA (LIBYA'S THIRD LARGEST) JUNE 8
OR AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE AIR BASE AT QIRDABIYAH
JUNE 9 (TRIPOLI 0817 NOTAL). SECURITY AROUND THE LIBYAN
LEADER WAS VERY TIGHT AND INCLUDED AN ARMED PHALANX OF
SOLDIERS IN FRONT OF THE REVIEWING STAND DURING HIS
SPEECH AND THE AIR SHOW WHICH FOLLOWED.

6. JUNE 12 EVACUATION DAY ACTIVITIES WILL BE CENTERED
IN BENGHAZI, WHERE A POPULAR DEMONSTRATION AND FOLKLORIC
PRESENTATION IS PLANNED. REPORTS THAT QADHAFI WOULD
USE JUNE 11 AS AN OCCASION TO RE-INTRODUCE "WORKER POWER"
IN SELECTED STORES AND COMPANIES IN FURTHER FULFILLMENT
OF THE SECOND HALF OF HIS "GREEN BOOK" (AND IN REPETITION
OF THE DISASTROUS 1972 EXPERIMENT IN THIS DIRECTION)
APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN PREMATURE.

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